

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Debbie Goebel <witiakdg@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 14, 2024 5:00 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] An email in support of wolves and wildlife.

Dear Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Commissioners,

Thank you for taking the time to read my email. As a tax-paying US citizen and a wildlife advocate, I have significant concerns regarding the way Montana wolves are being treated on federal lands, of which I am a part owner. I would like to see NO wolves killed in the name of wildlife "management" until true numbers of wolf and prey populations are discerned, meaning by unbiased review and reporting by true SCIENTISTS. Making excuses such as high livestock depredation rates should not enable wolf killing, given that the current numbers do not prove this and that there are NON-lethal ways to co-exist in the face of predator/livestock conflict.

Also, please outlaw trapping/snaring of wolves and all wildlife. The suffering endured by creatures - all of which do indeed experience pain and fear - is unacceptable, even with shortened trap check requirements. This practice is barbaric and depraved and quite frankly has no place in our civilized society.

Wolves and wildlife are not simply "furbearers" for human consumption and greed. They are living creatures which do, again, experience pain and fear, have families, and are just trying to live out their natural lives.

Please bend an ear to my concerns - and to those of all of my fellow non-consumptive US citizens who value our wild lands and wildlife so very much. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Debbie Goebel, M.D.  
Omaha, NE

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Jessica Karjala <jessica.karjala@footloosemontana.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 16, 2024 11:11 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Cc:** Connie Poten  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FALL 2024-WINTER 2025 FUR BEARER AND WOLF HUNTING SEASONS AND QUOTAS

Dear Chair Robinson and Commissioners:

Footloose Montana represents thousands of wildlife enthusiasts, wildlife biologists, animal rights advocates, wildlife observers and photographers as well as hunters, anglers, hikers, boaters and environmental conservationists across Montana, the country, and the globe. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on behalf of our supporters and others who are passionate about protecting Montana's wildlife.

While we would normally applaud FWP staff for taking the initiative to meet with stakeholders, we object when they do not give equal time to all stakeholders when it comes to Montana's wildlife. According to FWP they attended meetings of the Montana Trappers Association. Considering that trappers represent less than 1% of the people in Montana, we find it very concerning that they were the only stakeholder group with whom the FWP met. We respectfully request being given equal time and consideration when it comes to policies impacting wolves and all wildlife in Montana.

### **Fall 2024–Winter 2025 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons and Quotas**

Last year, FWP proposed reducing the 2023–2024 hunting quota from 450 to 289 wolves statewide, citing a decline in the population over the past two years. The proposed quota for each region was:

Region 1: 120 wolves  
Region 2: 91 wolves  
Region 3: 52 wolves  
Region 4: 15 wolves  
Regions 5, 6, and 7: 5 wolves total

When FWP have no way of accurately counting wolves or mating pairs and have not provided evidence of recovered wolf numbers, we find an increased quota of 334 wolves to be dangerous. FWP cannot estimate the probable harm to the overall population of wolves in Montana these increased quotas will have. These quotas will wipe out one third of the current FWP estimated population. Killing so many wolves will ensure the loss of mother wolves leaving pups abandoned to starve and die. It will disrupt pack dynamics and limit genetic diversity, both of which are critical to the ongoing survival of the species. For these reasons and because of decreased oversight from FWP when it comes to wildlife management, we oppose the proposed wolf quotas for the Fall 2024–Winter 2025 Furbearer and Wolf Trapping and Hunting Seasons.

The quota of 334 wolves is unjustifiably high. The legislature's directive to reduce wolf populations is not based on best available science and does not justify this culling. Allowing almost one-third of the estimated wolf population to be killed in one season undermines the ecosystem restoration. Worse, it threatens the containment of Chronic Wasting Disease that wolves provide. Predators are the most effective means of containing and eliminating CWD. By wiping out one third of Montana's wolves, they will not be able to make the necessary impact on the areas of epidemic CWD to keep the disease in check and prevent it from spreading. A healthy wolf population means a healthy ungulate population. By devastating wolf numbers, you jeopardize ungulate numbers, thus the entire balance of the ecosystem and facilitate the spread of disease. CWD wipes out entire herds of ungulates when wolf and predators are not allowed to thrive. We need look no further than Wyoming to see evidence of devastating CWD when predator species are hunted to near extinction.

<https://wyofile.com/a-wyoming-mule-deer-herd-is-so-riddled-with-cwd-it-could-nearly-vanish/> [wyofile.com]

Snares and traps are not hunting and are not supported by the majority of Montana voters. They are cruel forms of indiscriminate harm and injury for wolves, but that kill many other species. When there are no reporting requirements for trapping and snaring of nontarget species, the damage to the balance of ecosystems cannot be measured. Given our current climate crisis, there is no justification for destroying the balance of ecosystems that protect our environment and climate. Trapping and snaring are not only inhumane and unnecessary, their indiscriminate killing and wounding of all species does not reflect best practices of wildlife management and are not supported by best available science. Indiscriminate wounding and killing of all wildlife through the use of



snare and traps is a violation of the Public Trust Doctrine and we ask that the Commission eliminate snares and traps for all species, including and especially wolves, to stop destruction of publicly owned wildlife and mitigate the potential destruction of wolves in Montana.

## **PINE MARTEN**

We strongly object to the elimination of the mandatory 24-hour reporting for captured marten. There is no scientific basis for eliminating the mandatory 24-hour reporting for captured marten and given that marten have been decimated into extinction in several Montana mountain ranges, we find the elimination of the mandatory 24-hour reporting contrary to the sustainability of the species who are critical to ecosystems within Montana forests and wildlife habitat. Due to over trapping and killing of pine marten, they have become rare in Montana which poses a threat to all wildlife, balanced ecosystems and the climate in Montana.

We also strongly object to the wording of the proposal which states "During covid, we went away with mandatory tagging...." This is incorrect and must be removed because reporting within 24 hours of harvest was required during covid along with pelt tagging. (see 2023 FWP Trapping and Hunting Regulations)

In fact, tagging and 24-hour reporting were implemented as a result of the decimation of pine marten by trapping. We request that language stating covid as the reason be removed from the proposal. We find unlimited snaring and trapping of pine marten reckless and cruel. Snaring allows for Marten to be left painfully hanging by a paw or their neck for days, suffering unimaginably. Many are left to die a cruel and pain-filled death. Trapping and snaring are not hunting. Trapping and snaring not a recreation. Trapping and snaring are indefensible and cruel activities and should be eliminated since they serve no other purpose than to cause the indiscriminate suffering and killing of animals and pose serious threats to the existence of pine marten throughout the state of Montana. If the Commission will not eliminate trapping and snaring, we request tightly restricted quotas and limiting how many marten each trapper can kill, and keeping the 24-hour mandate.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The proposals on the agenda item "Fall 2024-Winter 2025 Fur Bearer and Wolf Hunting Seasons and Quotas" at the August meeting seem to only consider the desires of trapping special interests and disregard the majority of stakeholders, most of whom are taxpayers in the state of Montana. We do not feel that our needs and desires are being represented when we, the majority, are not consulted, heard and represented by our state government. We request that FWP meet with a broader range of stakeholders prior to Commission meeting, particularly when addressing hunting and trapping quotas and seasons. Trapping affects more constituents than just trappers. In fact, trappers only represent a small percentage of the state and state taxpayers, while the majority of us are recreationists, wildlife watchers, independent wildlife researchers, ethical hunters and more.

FWP should issue a call for interested parties via a broadly published press release, to submit proposals to the Commission to consider for each upcoming meeting agenda, outlining the purpose of the meeting. Submissions would be followed up by FWP meeting with the submitting person(s) or groups. Clearly not every issue can be addressed in one meeting, and the Commission would have the discretion to choose which ones to include under guidelines that prevent domination by special interests. Submissions not chosen could be submitted for a future meeting. In short, we demand representation from the government for which we pay taxes. This would help dispel the prevailing feeling that citizens are being railroaded into narrow objectives and left out of an important process that affects all Montanans and all publicly owned wildlife.

While we have worded our comment strongly, we sincerely appreciate the time and energy Commissioners devote to decisions regarding our wildlife. Your public service is recognized and respected. We want to impress on you, however, that the majority of Montanans care deeply about the protection of wildlife, public lands, and intact ecosystems and climate which rely upon species protection and that these are the reasons many people choose to live here and pay taxes. Again, thank you for your service and consideration,

Sincerely,

Jessica Karjala  
Executive Director, Footloose Montana

and

Connie Poten  
Board President, Footloose Montana

**Jessica Karjala**

Footloose Montana, Executive Director



4068809594

PO Box 8884

Montana 59807

<http://www.footloosemontana.org> [footloosemontana.org]



## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** KAREN BROWN <brown\_kk@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 24, 2024 12:08 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission; commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org; commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org; commissionerregion1@mtfwp.org; KC Walsh; commissionerregion5@mtfwp.org; commissionerregion6@mtfwp.org; commissionerregion7@mtfwp.org  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FALL 2024-WINTER 2025 FURBEARER & WOLF TRAPPING - HUNTING SEASONS AND QUOTAS

To MT FWP Commissioners,

I am writing to you prior to the August 16 meeting.

By now, you most certainly have seen the letter from Cam Sholly, Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park. Now we have the information and science that demonstrates hunting of the wolves drawn OUT OF THE PARK by unethical means has disrupted the pack structures and indeed may endanger the animals population if continued. Hiding behind the "quota" of 6 does not account for poaching, both known and not known. You cannot keep up this kind of pressure and not change the population numbers and dynamics. And yet, last year as I watched the meeting, a commissioner stated "The park said it would be FINE TO KILL 10!" They most certainly did not say that.

I am concerned that the FWP continues to ignore the non consumptive community. You have ignored the calls for actual census of wolves on the ground instead of relying on IPOM and anecdotal information. You do not have an actual number of the animals in the state. And you have refused to acknowledge the information regarding fracturing packs and killing lead animals.

In addition the elk population is above objective. Now farmers complain about elk eating their crops! Hunter success is robust and lets face it hunters do not work as hard anymore to get their animal. AND depredations are at an all time low, so the argument of cattle losses flies out the window.

When will you listen to the majority of the public!??

- 1). the quota for wolves in the two/one area to the north of the park should be ZERO, but if not then restore it to ONE. Millions come to your state to see these animals!
- 2). Close Regions as soon as the quota is reached. You waited two days last year to officially close the area.
- 3). Prosecute poachers on the same level of those who poach elk.
- 4). Implement a 24 hour check on traps and snares
5. Start using the reams of science, which has actually come from your own backyard, to make sane decisions on killing.

I will be working still for relisting. These animals on federal public lands belong to all of us.

Sincerely,

Karen L Brown

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Nikki Linn <mynikkilinn@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 20, 2024 10:50 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Wolves

> Dear Commissioners,  
>  
> As a resident of Montana I am strongly urging you to re-evaluate Montanas wolf statues and the ways in which these apex predators are studied and quantified.  
>  
> Montana currently has no qualified conservationists or experts on wolves dictating policy. The mass vilification of wolves is both unwarranted and not in the best interests of other animal populations like elk and deer.  
>  
> What recently transpired in Wyoming with the wolf torture cannot be tolerated in Montana. The entire world is watching.....  
>  
> I have rescued wolves, wolf hybrids and thousands of animals in my 30 years in animal rescue. Wolves are integral parts of our ecosystem and need protection and laws. ANY type of snowmobile use to kill predators like Montana allows for other animals is also absolute cruelty and barbarism.  
>  
> Montana should stand for natural beauty and preservation of wildlife- not wanton killing and animal cruelty.  
>  
> Please stand up for wolves and help protect ALL of Montanas wildlife and ecosystem.  
>  
> Thank You.  
> Nikki Linn  
> Arni Foundation  
> Whitefish, MT.  
>  
> ,  
> Sent from my iPhone

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** mnbarry927@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, July 22, 2024 9:17 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]

Please stop slaughtering wolves!



**Wickman, Erik**

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**From:** Linda Holding <holding64@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 15, 2024 7:28 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 2024 furbearer hunting season quotas

The quotas for trapping of wolves, pine martens and others is unjustifiably high. Top species predators like wolves are important for controlling and restoring the balance of all species in an ecosystem.

The problem with allowing snares and traps to control any species is the collateral damage to other non target animals. In short, it is a crude management tool for population control. We expect more sophistication from Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

And what on earth do we have against pine martens that they are trapped willy nilly. The little buggers must be getting into grandma's stash of CBD brownies and golly -- that will never do.

We ask for a more intelligent agenda from FWP regarding population controls.

Linda Holding  
[holding64@gmail.com](mailto:holding64@gmail.com)

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Lisha Doucet <lisha\_doucet@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 12, 2024 1:04 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 2024 Montana MtFWP Wolf Comment

Dear commissioners,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on the 2024 wolf season. I am an avid wildlife watcher and have made many trips to Yellowstone in the past specifically to view wildlife. Unfortunately with all the wolf killing it has become too sad for me to make further visits. I would love to go again, but not while so many of my beloved Yellowstone wolves are being killed.

Why is it that hunters have more rights to kill the wolves than I have to view wolves. I would like to note that wildlife watchers generate a lot of money for the Yellowstone region.

Here are my comments:

- Reduce the wolf quota in the Yellowstone area WMU 313 from 6 to 4.
- Enact a same day closure when the quota is hit. Hunters will go on a killing spree and try to kill as many as possible before it is closed. They did this in Wisconsin a few years ago and it was a bloodbath. We need to reduce the time for closure.
- Institute a 24 hr check requirement for wolf trapping and snaring. Trapping is a cruel and inhumane way to capture an animal. I would prefer you do away with trapping because of it's cruel and inhumane treatment of wildlife but checking often to ensure the animal does not suffer for long will work for now.

Sincerely,  
Lisha Doucet

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** JUDY MCMULLEN <jlmcmullen@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 10, 2024 3:29 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 2024 wolf season

I am sure you are aware that wolf numbers are down and elk number are up. In fact, elk numbers exceed your objective of a population of 95,000.

As someone who travels out of state several times a year to visit Montana and Yellowstone, I would respectfully like to ask:

1. Reduce Yellowstone wolf killing quota in wolf management Area WMU 313 from 6 to 4 wolves.
2. Same-day closure (12 hours) when quota has been achieved. Especially Yellowstone area WMU 313.
- 3 Implement a 24-hour trap check requirement for wolf trapping and snaring.

Best regards,

Judy McMullen



## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Bev Marie <bev.marie56@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 9, 2024 3:41 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Cc:** commissionerregion1@mtfwp.org; commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org;  
commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org; KC Walsh; commissionerregion5@mtfwp.org;  
commissionerregion6@mtfwp.org; commissionerregion7@mtfwp.org  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 2024 Wolf Trapping and Hunting Season

Good afternoon Commissioners, I'm writing you today to voice my concerns on the 2024 Wolf Trapping and Hunting Season

There is so much killing of these wolves and wild ones. The story of what happened to the poor young female wolf pup in Daniel Wyoming will forever be etched in my brain and heart. I would ask you to please consider lowering the quota from 6 wolves to 3 in Unit WMU 313, and when the quotas have been reached, same day closure, especially in Unit 313. I would also like you to consider a 24 hour trap check for wolf trapping and snaring, it hurts my heart knowing that whatever is trapped is suffering until the trap is checked or the animal dies.

I feel a better way of counting the wolves needs to be in place. people on your field staff need to physically count these wolves to prove how many wolves have been killed, the wolf population is declining, and all of it goes against what the science says. There has to be a better or more humane way to manage these wolves.

Thank you for your time, I'm just one Voice trying to make a difference.

Sincerely  
Bev  
Cincinnati, Ohio

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** cameronRjewell <cameronrjewell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 14, 2024 10:47 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission; commissionerregion1@mtfwp.org; commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org; commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org; KC Walsh; info@footloosemontana.org  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Wolf Quotas and Trapping

To whom it may concern:

As a homeowner in Montana, please know that I do not support the large number of wolves being killed in the current proposal. I support no quota and no killing of wolves period. I also vehemently oppose the trapping and killing of any animal.

I find the policies of FWP more in alignment with those of 1850 instead of 2024. These policies must change.

Cameron Jewell  
19373 MT HWY 35  
Bigfork, MT 59911  
cell 305 797-0239

**Wickman, Erik**

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**From:** chrisalbertdvm@aol.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 21, 2024 7:43 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] wolf regulations

Like many people, I visit Montana for the wildlife, and I visit Yellowstone for the wolves.

It is discouraging when FWP allows so much hunting of wolves that spend over 90% of their time in Yellowstone park. Killings have caused the dissolution of 3 of 11 wolf packs, and disrupted social structure of remaining wolves.

I encourage you to adopt rules that will minimize the killing of these wolves.

No other animals are hunted during their breeding season. It is abhorrent that wolves are, and the hunting season should be closed by February 15.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Chris Albert, DVM



## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Nickie.Duong@infineon.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 23, 2024 8:48 AM  
**To:** citizensadvocate@mt.gov; diverson@mt.gov; commissionerregion1@mtfwp.org; FWP Commission; commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org; commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org; KC Walsh; commissionerregion5@mtfwp.org  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Your Urgent Action Requested

Dear Officials,

As a MT resident, I write to strongly urge you to do more to protect our precious, iconic, essential and endangered gray wolves now.

Gray wolves bring in millions of dollars to our state; tourism is the fastest growing industry and the second highest source of revenues for our state. People don't come here for our Walmarts; people visit Montana because of our beautiful landscapes and iconic wildlife especially gray wolves! People want to see gray wolves alive and thriving in the wild. There are many non-lethal methods to control predators that will not hinder any livestock ranchers' profits.

I write to strongly urge you to make immediate changes to Montana's heinous hunting/trapping regulations as follows:

- OVER QUOTA KILLS COME OFF NEXT YEAR'S QUOTA!
- Eliminate use of snares set for wolves on public land.
- Require 24-hour trap checks.
- Prohibit the use of bait.
- Close killing wolves in known CWD elk/deer units.
- Reduce the wolf quotas in elk/deer overpopulated units.
- Reduce wolf trapping season to Jan 1- February 15 and limit further based on weather conditions and/or presence of grizzlies.
- Close the wolf hunting season Feb 15.
- Close units outside Yellowstone within 12 hours of reaching quota.
- Utilize substantiated peer review methodology to estimate wolf population. IPOM has significant criticisms from credible scientists.
- Provide the public with any known trapping of lynx, grizzly, or wolverine.
- Increase transparency as the public has a right to know.

Kind regards,

Drs. Kelly and Neville Dunn  
Whitefish, MT

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Karch, Kellan on behalf of FWP Wildlife  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 24, 2024 1:07 PM  
**To:** Wickman, Erik  
**Subject:** FW: Written Comments for FWP August 16 Meeting  
**Attachments:** Comments to FWP 07-24-24.pdf

Here is a public comment for the upcoming commission meeting. Let me know if you have any questions, thank you.

**From:** stephen bvconservation.org <stephen@bvconservation.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 24, 2024 11:25 AM  
**To:** FWP Wildlife <fwpwd@mt.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Written Comments for FWP August 16 Meeting

Comments attached, Thank you.

Stephen Capra  
Executive Director  
Bold Visions Conservation  
406-370-3028  
[bvconservation.org](http://bvconservation.org) [[bvconservation.org](http://bvconservation.org)]



## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Ruthe Heimel <ruthelea308c@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 14, 2024 9:54 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep Montana a state where wildlife has some priority

Trappers wrote the regulations for wolf trapping and marten trapping. It should be mandatory that FWP meet with other stakeholders regarding publicly owned wildlife regulations. Other stakeholders have interests not addressed in these proposals.

FWP should be required to publicly post information and a deadline for private citizens and organizations to propose regulations regarding wildlife. As it is now, special interests control the regulations. Yet wildlife is a major benefit to the state and citizenry.

The wolf, pine marten, and beaver kills are much too high. FWP are not considering the benefit of these animals to their ecosystems, but are catering to a group that if had their way would have little to no limits on wildlife kills. Read the publications. Read the science. Do what's best for wildlife and citizens, not what's best for a group of trappers.

The Heimel Family  
Whitefish MT

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Celia Bartholomew <cjbart4@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 24, 2024 2:08 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please Stop Inhumane Trapping!

Thank you for your consideration. Would love to come to your state sometime for a trip, but won't be doing so while there is such disregard for animal welfare using cruel and barbaric measures to kill wildlife!

YES 24 hour trap checks.

YES Mandatory reporting of beaver trapped, quotas, and limited trapping season. Currently there is no quota and the beaver trapping season runs 5 1/2 - 9 months out of the year with no reporting required!

OMG YES Eliminate use of snares on public lands.

YES Closure of swift fox and fisher trapping seasons.

YES Prohibition of trapping in state parks.

YES Increased trap setbacks to 500' on **all** public roads and trails.

YES Require signage of trapping on public lands.

YES Close trapping seasons before upland game bird seasons.

FOR SURE Mandatory completion of annual trapper survey.

Thank you,  
Celia Bartholomew  
Encinitas CA

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Angela Rosario <angierosario99@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 20, 2024 9:33 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Wildlife protection

Please implement the following to protect wildlife:

OVER QUOTA KILLS COME OFF NEXT YEAR'S QUOTA!

Eliminate use of snares set for wolves on public land.

Require 24-hour trap checks.

Prohibit the use of bait.

Close killing wolves in known CWD elk/deer units.

Reduce the wolf quotas in elk/deer overpopulated units.

Reduce wolf trapping season to Jan 1- February 15 and limit further based on weather conditions and/or presence of grizzlies.

Close the wolf hunting season Feb 15.

Close units outside Yellowstone within 12 hours of reaching quota.

Utilize substantiated peer review methodology to estimate wolf population. IPOM has significant criticisms from credible scientists.

Provide the public with any known trapping of lynx, grizzly, or wolverine.

Increase transparency as the public has a right to know.

The goal of life is living in agreement with nature. 🌱🌳☀️

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Alan Crawford <alan.crawford@me.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 9, 2024 11:17 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Wolf comments and general predator policy comments

Dear Montana FWP,

My name is Alan Crawford and I have lived in Bozeman, Montana since October 2004.

I am sending these comments to be used as MT FWP works to establish the guidelines for the upcoming wolf "season".

I will start by telling you that I am NOT a rancher or someone who earns a living in the overall Ag business. I am also not a hunter. I highly respect the overall Ag business and I highly respect all ethical hunters in MT and across the country. I have numerous family members and friends who are responsible hunters. As our son was growing up in Bozeman, our family took a hunters safety class just to become informed. I work as a consulting chemical engineer in the global silicon industry (silicones, solar and semiconductor). I spend a lot of times outdoors hiking and backcountry skiing.

My comments:

- 1) Stop using the word "harvest" when it comes to hunting / killing any animal. This sounds like DEI / PC speak and I think gives the entire hunting community a bad name. Call it what it is - fair chase killing of animals in an ethical manner,
- 2) Trapping any animal of any kind has ZERO place in the 21st century. This is a practice that had its time in the days of Jim Bridger but not now.
- 3) Killing any animal by poison baiting, burning, from aircraft (airplanes and helicopters) has no place in the 21st century.
- 4) The practice of using a motorized vehicle, such as a snowmobile, to chase and then run-down any animal (fox, coyote, wolf, etc) represents the most egregious form of cruelty that humans can come up with and has zero place in 21st century Montana (or Idaho or Wyoming or other places). The Cody Roberts / Daniel Wyoming wolf torture is not right no matter how you try to justify. Anyone condoning this practice has, in my opinion, zero ethics and morals and is truly a sadistic person.
- 5) Since moving to Montana in 2004, I have tried to follow the whole predation topic to figure out the truth. I am 100% convinced that the truth is nowhere to be found at both MT FWP, the AG business nor the other side of the equation, i.e. the very aggressive animal rights groups (like PETA). That said, I have concluded that at the present time there is a concerted effort on the side of the AG industry to spread significant more dis-information about predation by wolves, cougars, bears, foxes, coyotes (even crows and magpies) than the opposite side does in trying to protect these animals. MT FWP seems to be helping fan these flames with the way wolf quotas have been established, especially in the current Gianforte administration. I do understand that some form of predator control is necessary but great care must be taken to ensure this is done as ethically and humanely as possible and based on real facts and not emotions.
- 6) Trapping and other inhumane methods to kill any animal (poison, burning, run-down by motorized vehicles) must be stopped 100% ASAP.

7) Real science, vetted by recognized subject matter experts, such as those with Doug Smith-level of experience, should be used to establish meaningful wolf (and other predator) killing quotas.

8) MT FWP must use full transparency and not defer to non-expert “managers” appointed by the Gianforte administration as seems to have become common practice. MT FWP should also not retaliate when a recognized subject matter expert employed by MT FWP or hired as a consultant offers an opinion that does not meet the desired narrative of the Gianforte administration.

If there is a silver lining to the horrific Cody Roberts / Daniel, Wyoming wolf tortue incident, it is that the **world** is watching Montana very closely as wildlife (predators along with bison, elk, deer, etc) policy is being revised. Please do not cater the the sadistic minority (trappers and proponents of motorized vehicle torture).

Sincerely,  
Alan Crawford  
Bozeman, Montana  
406-451-2483



## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Kevin Boileau <kbradref@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 14, 2024 9:49 AM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Cc:** commissionerregion1@mtfwp.org; commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org; commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org; KC Walsh; commissionerregion5@mtfwp.org; commissionerregion6@mtfwp.org; commissionerregion7@mtfwp.org; BCS  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Wolf management proposals reply from Dr. Kevin Boileau, PhD

To FW, regarding wolf management:

I am a double PhD scientist and a 5th generation Montanan, and I am concerned about your wolf management system.

FWP proposes killing 334 wolves by gun, snare and trap in the 2024-2025 season. However, allowing almost one-third of the estimated wolf population to be killed in one season ignores the valuable role that they play in our ecosystems.

I don't perceive any rigorous critical thinking or moral thinking in your violent strategy. From what I can see, you style the regulations in favor of hunters and ranchers, but ignore the moral rights of wolves to their existence, ignore the rights of residents who do not support mass wolf slaughter, and ignore effective processes to encourage peaceful co-existence.

I challenge you to develop a well-reasoned, effective management plan that does not involve the genocide of wolves. One that protects their lives. One that seeks non-violent alternatives to shared use of land that belongs to humans and non-humans alike. I also strongly believe that the regulations ought to be written by all stakeholders, including residents like me who strongly oppose wolf slaughter.

Kevin Boileau, PhD  
Dillon, MT  
406.200.0723

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*DR. Kevin Boileau, PhD, PhD, JD/LLM*  
858.688.4871  
415.830.0065  
*Mediation - Law - Psychoanalysis*

## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** D Beal <dbeal1286@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 23, 2024 3:20 PM  
**To:** FWP Commission  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Wolf Proposal Feedback / Comments

Dear Commissioners,

As extended families that take our yearly eco tour vacations to your state, specifically to see the wildlife, we are writing to strongly express our concerns about Montana's war on wolves (and other predators).

Sadly, we as extended families that live across the US, have decided that until your state stops the war on wolves and Wildlife in general, we are canceling our August vacations and taking our hard-earned vacation dollars elsewhere. We always buy the travel insurance... so no economic loss for us. However, we spend roughly \$13,000++ per person on these eco vacations. That does not include all the trinkets, souvenirs, food and beverages we buy.

It breaks our heart as Glacier and other areas in MT are our favorite places in the country. You are undoing 30 years of conservation and taking us back to the 1800s.

We strongly support the following:

**OVER QUOTA KILLS COME OFF NEXT YEAR'S QUOTA!**

Eliminate use of snares and any traps set for wolves on public land.

Require 24-hour trap checks.

Prohibit the use of bait.

Close killing wolves in known CWD elk/deer units.

Reduce the wolf quotas in elk/deer overpopulated units.

Reduce wolf trapping season to Jan 1- February 15 and limit further based on weather conditions and/or presence of grizzlies.

Close the wolf hunting season Feb 15.

Close units outside Yellowstone within 12 hours of reaching quota.

Utilize substantiated peer review methodology to estimate wolf population. IPOM has significant criticisms from credible scientists.

Provide the public with any known trapping of lynx, grizzly, or wolverine.

Increase transparency as the public has a right to know.

The majority of Americans do not agree with what you are doing. Not only are our families boycotting MT... our friends have decided to do the same.

Please change your laws to value and protect your wildlife. We should not be killing off Wildlife / destroying fauna that is native to our public lands to serve special interests and to accommodate animals that should not be there.

We thank you in advance for your consideration.

Beal, Matt and Murphy Families of AZ, FL, CA, VA, NC, SC, NJ, CO



Bold Visions Conservation • PO Box 941, Bozeman, MT 59771 • 406-370-3028

July 23, 2024

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
1420 East Sixth Avenue  
P.O. Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Comments on Wolf issues prior to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Meeting of August 16th.

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to make clear our organization's disgust with the manner in which you continue to manage wolves in Montana. You are not managing; you are destroying wolves in the wild, and the continued use of trapping and snaring is not a sport; it is wide-ranging torture.

I have personally attended many of these meetings, and they all result in the same way: You do not give an inch, but make clear that slaughter is your goal.

My organization is committed to getting the Forest Service to take over management of the 20 million acres surrounding Yellowstone National Park in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming. We are also working to create a 1.6-million-acre National Monument that would not allow the killing of predator species.

You have lost all credibility with the people in Montana, and polling reflects the desire to co-exist with wolves.

We strongly support Commissioner Susan Kirby Brooke's amendment to break up unit 313 and put some of the killing into 316. We also commend her willingness to reach out and answer some of your constituents' concerns.

Your method for counting wolves, iPOM, is flawed and part of litigation against you for the inflated numbers you continue to pronounce. Wolves are suffering, packs are being destroyed, and no animal should be subjected to such a level of stress. You receive Pittman-Robertson funding, which makes clear that wildlife must be managed to maintain their health and respect their lives. You have shown no ability to live up to the very funding that keeps your agency solvent.

We ask that you reduce the wolf slaughter by 50% this coming year and not allow the trapping or snaring of these magnificent creatures. You should ban all trapping or killing of any wildlife within five miles of the Yellowstone boundary. No trapping should occur before mid-January to protect grizzlies.



Yellowstone Superintendent Cam Sholly is practically begging you for sanity. Let's review: trappers bring nothing to Montana's economy and steal from us the right to see beautiful animals in the wild and threaten our safety. By contrast, Yellowstone is an economic engine for the state, and wolf-watching brought in \$85 million in tourism revenue last year. At what point do you listen to the logic and stop propping up the sadistic nature of trapping? What happened to being real sportsmen? That is something you need to focus on, not slaughter and torture of such a vital species. It is not sport to lay a carcass (which was killed for bait) on the border of Yellowstone and use calls to draw wolves out and then shoot or trap them; that is slob hunting. It is a disgrace.

You have a chance to earn the respect of the people of Montana, but if you continue to cater to trappers and trophy hunters, you will continue to force the change that will end your control of wildlife.

We ask you to show respect for wolves and other Keystone species and use this meeting to create a new agenda that prioritizes their protection. We look forward to your comments and to your attendance at the meeting.

Sincerely,

  
Stephen Capra  
Executive Director  
Bold Visions Conservation



## Wickman, Erik

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**From:** Nic D <snobunnie1992@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 25, 2024 5:24 PM  
**To:** citizensadvocate@mt.gov; diverson@mt.gov; commissionerregion1@mtfwp.org; FWP Commission; commissionerregion2@mtfwp.org; commissionerregion3@mtfwp.org; KC Walsh; commissionerregion5@mtfwp.org  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Your Urgent Action Requested

Dear Officials,

We write to strongly urge you to do more to protect our precious, iconic, essential and endangered gray wolves now. We are MT residents.

Gray wolves bring in millions of dollars to our state; tourism is the fastest growing industry and the second highest source of revenues for our state. People don't come here for our Walmarts; people visit Montana because of our beautiful landscapes and iconic wildlife especially gray wolves! People want to see gray wolves alive and thriving in the wild. There are many non-lethal methods to control predators that will not hinder any livestock ranchers' profits.

I write to strongly urge you to make immediate changes to Montana's heinous hunting/trapping regulations as follows:

--OVER QUOTA KILLS COME OFF NEXT YEAR'S QUOTA!

--Eliminate use of snares set for wolves on public land.

--Require 24-hour trap checks.

--Prohibit the use of bait.

--Close killing wolves in known CWD elk/deer units.

--Reduce the wolf quotas in elk/deer overpopulated units.

--Reduce wolf trapping season to Jan 1- February 15 and limit further based on weather conditions and/or presence of grizzlies.

--Close the wolf hunting season Feb 15.

--Close units outside Yellowstone within 12 hours of reaching quota.

--Utilize substantiated peer review methodology to estimate wolf population. IPOM has significant criticisms from credible scientists.

--Provide the public with any known trapping of lynx, grizzly, or wolverine.

--Increase transparency as the public has a right to know.

Kind regards,

Elsa and Kirill Knutson

Billings, MT